

In the Specification:

Please insert the following between the title and the heading "TECHNICAL FIELD":

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

A1 This application claims foreign priority benefits of Singapore Application No. 200104881-8 filed on August 13, 2001.

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of this preliminary amendment. Additionally, enclosed is the supplemental Declaration which incorporates a foreign priority benefits claim to the Singaporean application referenced in the present amendment. If the Examiner has any questions or matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he or she is encouraged to contact Mr. Edward Hotchkiss, attorney for the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward S. Hotchkiss  
Registration No. 33,904

ESH:ri

Enclosures:

Postcard  
Declaration

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## DECLARATION

RECEIVED

FEB -6 2002

As the below-named inventors, we declare that

Our residences, post office addresses, and citizenships are as stated below under our names.

We believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF MICROELECTRONIC SUBSTRATES," the specification of which was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 30, 2001 and assigned Application Number 09/944,247, Confirmation Number 1800, (Attorney Docket No. 108298548US).

We have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.


We acknowledge our duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 or 365 of any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate listed below or any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America listed below. We have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application from which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Nos. | Country   | Foreign Filing Date | Priority Not Claimed |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 200104881-8                    | Singapore | 13 August 2001      |                      |
|                                |           |                     |                      |
|                                |           |                     |                      |

We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true;

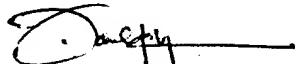
and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that the making of willfully false statements and the like is punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and may jeopardize the validity of any patent issuing from this patent application.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chee Peng Neo

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